

September, 1999



Wastewater News



Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>

Working towards Clean Water



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in September?

Go to the OW Calendar of Events site by clicking here

<<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/news.nsf/owcalendar?OpenView&Grid=4&Date=1999-07-05>>

Upcoming Events

Urban Water Resource Tools

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see <http://www.nipccog.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm> or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course

The objective of the NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course is to provide the basic regulatory framework and technical considerations that support the development of wastewater discharge permits as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. The course is designed for new permit writers highlighting the process of developing, issuing and complying with NPDES permits. The format of the course is a combination of lecture, case examples, and practical exercises that are geared to acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist them in writing NPDES permits. The training course lasts 5 days and there is no fee for attending. Due to popularity of this course, no space is currently available the rest of the year. New courses will be posted as soon as the dates and locations are confirmed. For more information please visit our website: <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/npdesup.htm>>. For more information, contact Jennifer Sachar on (202) 260-1389.

National Drought Policy Commission

The National Drought Policy Commission (NDPC) working groups met during the week of August 16th to continue their work in preparing background materials for the Commission. A meeting of the Inter-Agency Contacts Group has been scheduled for August 31, 1999. All Commissioners have been formally named except for two who are still undergoing background checks. The Commission had tentatively scheduled their next meeting for November 4-5, 1999 in Washington, DC, but are considering scheduling it sooner (mid-September) because of current drought conditions. An opportunity for the public to comment will be provided at the meeting. In a related development, the White House announced the formation of a Drought Task Force to coordinate the Federal response to the current drought and EPA is participating. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288 or visit the NDPC website at <www.fsa.usda.gov/drought/>.

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EPA/Water Environment Federation Pretreatment Training Courses

Two Pretreatment Training Courses are now offered. The EPA Office of Wastewater Management is continuing to co-sponsor Pretreatment Training Courses with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) in 1999 by offering both Fundamentals and Advanced courses. The Advanced course is not available at this time.

The Fundamentals (or "Basic") Course is designed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework on the development and implementation of pretreatment programs. The Course is recommended for environmental professionals responsible for implementing the Pretreatment Program at the local level, for industrial dischargers and consultants, and is especially designed for individuals that are new to the program. The 1999 schedule for this course is: September 20-21 - Portland, Oregon and September 23-24, 1999 - Laughlin, Nevada.

For more information, contact Patrick Bradley at (202) 260-6963.

Small Underserved Communities Team Field Trip

During the week of September 20, members of the Municipal Support Division's Small Underserved Communities team will be attending a field trip with staff of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP). The team will meet and confer with RCAP technical assistance providers and small community leaders in the Southeastern RCAP region. They will visit small, rural communities with water and wastewater problems and other communities which are benefitting from RCAP's efforts. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Revisions to the NPDES and WQS Regulations in Support of the Total Maximum Daily Load Rule

On August 12, 1990, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Carol Browner signed proposed revisions to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations (40 CFR Part 130) for implementing state, territorial, authorized tribal, and EPA responsibilities under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Administrator Browner also signed proposed revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Water Quality Standards regulations to facilitate implementation of TMDLs and to improve water quality in impaired waters before TMDLs are established. The proposed revisions to the NPDES and water quality standards regulations (40 CFR Parts 122, 123, 124 and 131) are designed to achieve reasonable further progress toward attainment of water quality standards in impaired waterbodies pending TMDL establishment, and to provide reasonable assurance that TMDLs, once completed, will be adequately implemented. For more information about the TMDL rule, please visit the following web sites: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/featinfo.htm> or <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/tmdl/index.html> or contact Kim Kramer on (202) 260-7933.

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Draft Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

On August 6, 1999, the draft *Guidance Manual and Example NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations* was made available for public review and comment. The draft guidance serves as a blueprint for Regional and State permitting authorities to improve implementation of the NPDES permit program for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) under the existing regulations. The draft guidance is available now on our web-site, and can be accessed at: <http://www.epa.gov/owm> or contact Greg Beatty on (202) 260-6929.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms have been revised and published. They will be available on the Office of Wastewater Management web site this month at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/>. This amendment to the Clean Water Act changes program requirements and emphasis. This action also develops a sewage sludge permit application form and revises permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. For more information, contact Wendy Bell on (202) 260-9534.

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)

The published proposal streamlines portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. This information will be available on the Office of Wastewater Management web site this month at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/>. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Draft EPA Variability Guidance

This document was developed by an EPA work group to address questions raised by stakeholders on the issue of analytic variability that might be associated with WET testing and how it related to the NPDES permit program (i.e., water quality based effluent permit limitations for WET). The draft guidance is available to the public from the OW docket by contacting the OW docket (Phone: (202) 260-3027) between the hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (Eastern Standard Time). If you have additional technical questions on the draft guidance, please contact either project manager Debra Denton at ((415) 744-1919, E-mail: denton.debra@epamail.epa.gov) or Laura Phillips ((202) 260-9522, E-mail: phillips.laura@epamail.epa.gov).

Direct Final Rule for EPA's Clean Water Act Awards and National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards

A draft direct final rule is currently being developed for EPA's Clean Water Act awards. The rule will formalize the eligibility requirements, nominations process, application provisions and selection criteria for the Office of Wastewater Management's National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards programs. The rule will include programs for Operations and Maintenance, Beneficial Use of Biosolids, Pretreatment, Storm Water Management and Combined Sewer

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Overflow Controls. First and second place winners are selected for the EPA's 1999 National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards. Winners are recognized for outstanding technological achievements or innovative processes, methods or devices in waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. National winners will be invited to receive an inscribed plaque at a ceremony during the Water Environment Federation's annual conference on October 11, 1999, in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

OTHER INFORMATION

Water Efficiency Page Expands

OWM's Water Efficiency web page has been expanded to include drought planning and management information. The Drought Page explains the importance of planning for drought, provides a number of useful links to other sites that have drought information, and has a large section of water efficiency measures. For more information contact John Flowers on (202) 260-7288 or Valerie Martin on (202) 260-7259.

National Onsite Demonstration Project

The National Onsite Demonstration Project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse is entering its fifth phase of funding. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$6 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. A broad range of alternative technologies have been installed in the 13 states who are currently participating.. Copies of a report to Congress on the program or of a report summarizing Phase I results may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogye (202) 260-5841.

Grant Awarded for Small Community Wastewater Project

The EPA awarded a grant of \$545,000 to the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) to support on-site technical assistance and information transfer to address community-specific wastewater treatment or compliance problems in small, rural communities. Particular emphasis will be placed in minority, low-income, and other traditionally under-served rural communities. The project supports Goal 2, Objective 3 of the Municipal Support Division's FY 1999 Strategic plan for assistance to small and under-served communities. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

Biosolids

Joint NRC/EPA Sewage Sludge Radiological Survey: Survey Design and Test Site Results® was recently issued by EPA (OWM & ORIA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (EPA 832-R-99-900; May 1999; <http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/tenorm/docs/sludgereport.htm>). The document presents the results of radioisotope analyses of sewage sludge and ash samples from nine test sites used as a test of the procedures for use in a survey of ~300 POTWs being conducted over the next year by a Subcommittee of the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS). The objectives of the 300-site survey are to: 1) obtain data on the levels of radioactive materials in sludge and ash at POTWs from across the country, 2) estimate the extent to which radioactive contamination comes from either NRC/State licensees or naturally-occurring radioactivity, and 3) support potential rulemaking decisions by NRC or EPA, if necessitated by the survey results. Along with an ongoing dose modeling effort, the results of the survey will be used to help finalize a joint guidance document for POTWs being developed by the ISCORS Subcommittee on dealing with radioactive materials in sewage sludge and ash first issued for comment in May 1997. For more information, contact Bob Bastian in OWM at (202) 260-7378.

Wastewater Facts About Small Communities

The MSD Small Underserved Communities Team is preparing a series of Fact Sheets on the status of wastewater treatment in small communities. The Fact Sheets are intended to provide OWM baseline information from several major data sources and will cover findings from the 1990 Census, the 1996 EPA Needs Survey, the USDA/RUS Facilities Tracking System, and the EPA CW State Revolving Fund Database as they relate to small communities. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

END OF REPORT